

## Accessible Door Handles



Persons with disabilities experience difficulty in using the “elephant ear” pull handle on commercial doors. The ADA and Title 24 clearly state that the pull-handle must be “graspable.” In other words, persons with limited hand and finger mobility can not grasp the smooth surface of the pull-handle pictured below.



**A**

The requirement for an accessible pull handle on a commercial door throughout the U. S. is one that requires no tight grasping, pinching, or twisting of the wrist to operate. In this picture, this style of pull handle offers no easy “hook” grasp ability. Recently, there has been a rash of complaints by the disabled community and turn-downs by building inspectors due to the installation of non-complying pull hardware. This type of handle requires finger strength to hold onto the handle and consequently is not accepted as accessible.

The following hardware designs are accessible.



**B**

The tube type handle (shown here) may be right angle offset or straight out from the door style.



**C**

This variation utilizes an extruded shaped bar stock handle.

Each of these styles offers ease of grasp for the elderly and persons with diminished upper body, arm, or hand strength.

All commercial door manufacturers produce graspable pull handles, such as “B” and “C”

**Contract Glaziers** take note: Make sure when you order your doors that they have the proper pull handles.

**Building Inspectors:** Accept only accessible hardware.

**This is a nationwide issue. Do it right the first time.**